

§ 129.350 Batteries—general.

(a) Wherever a battery is charged, there must be natural or induced ventilation to dissipate the gases generated.

(b) Each battery must be located as high above the bilge as practicable within the space the battery is located in and be secured to protect against shifting due to roll, pitch, and heave motions or vibration of the vessel, and free from exposure to splash or spray of water.

(c) Each battery must be accessible for maintenance and removal.

(d) Each connection to a battery terminal must be made with a permanent connector, rather than with spring clips or other temporary clamps.

(e) Each battery must be mounted in a tray lined with, or constructed of, lead or other material resistant to damage by the electrolyte.

(f) Each battery charger must have an ammeter connected in the charging circuit.

(g) Unless the battery is adjacent to its distribution panel or switchboard that distributes power to the lighting, motor, and appliance circuits, the battery leads must have fuses in series with and as close as practicable to the battery.

(h) Each battery used for starting an engine must be located as close as possible to the engine or engines served.

§ 129.353 Battery categories.

This section applies to batteries installed to meet the requirements of § 129.310(a) for secondary sources of power to vital loads.

(a) *Large.* A large battery-installation is one connected to a battery charger having an output of more than 2 kW, computed from the highest possible charging current and rated voltage of the battery installed.

(b) *Small.* A small battery-installation is one connected to a battery charger having an output of 2 kW or less, computed from the highest possible charging current and rated voltage of the battery installed.

§ 129.356 Battery installations.

(a) *Large.* Each large battery-installation must be located in a locker, room, or enclosed box dedicated solely

to the storage of batteries. Ventilation must be provided in accordance with § 111.15-10 of this chapter. Electrical equipment located within the battery enclosure must be approved by an independent laboratory for hazardous locations of Class I, Division 1, Group B, and must meet subpart 111.105 of this chapter.

(b) *Small.* Each small battery-installation must be located in a well-ventilated space and protected from falling objects. No small battery-installation may be in a closet, storeroom, or similar space.

§ 129.360 Semiconductor-rectifier systems.

(a) Each semiconductor-rectifier system must have an adequate heat-removal system to prevent overheating.

(b) If a semiconductor-rectifier system is used in a propulsion system or in another vital system, it must—

(1) Have a current-limiting circuit;

(2) Have external overcurrent protection; and

(3) Comply with Sections 4/5.84.2 and 4/5.84.4 of the “Rules for Building and Classing Steel Vessels” of the American Bureau of Shipping.

§ 129.370 Equipment grounding.

(a) On a metallic vessel each metallic enclosure and frame of electrical equipment must be permanently grounded to the hull. On a nonmetallic vessel each enclosure and frame of electrical equipment must be bonded to each other and to a common ground by a conductor not normally carrying current.

(b) Each metallic case of instruments must be grounded. So must each secondary winding of instrument transformers.

(c) Each equipment grounding conductor must be sized to comply with section 250-95 of NEC (NFPA 70).

(d) Each nonmetallic mast and topmast must have a lightning-ground conductor.

§ 129.375 System grounding.

(a) If a grounded distribution system is provided, there must be only one connection to ground, regardless of the number of power sources. This connection must be at the main switchboard.